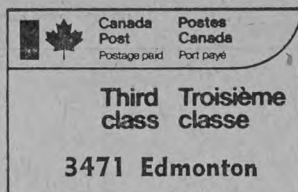
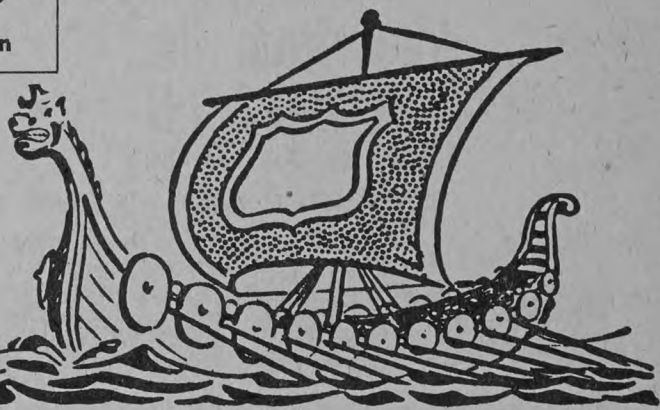


SORENSEN, MRS B
8905 - 77 AVE
EDMONTON 82, ALBERTA



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DECEMBER 1971



GUNNAR THORVALDSON
President of the Scandinavian Centre

We generally look forward to the New Year with anticipation but, when we pause and reflect on the past, I believe most of us can say that pleasant memories overshadow the times of sorrow and despair. It is my sincere wish that the readers of this newspaper will have good health and happiness and that 1972 will be a good year in every respect.



SIG SORENSON
Honorary President of the Scandinavian Centre

May the spirit of good will that prevails at this Christmas season continue throughout all of 1972, so that real progress can be made in making the Scandinavian Centre a truly cultural Centre. To all shareholders and friends of the Scandinavian Centre, I wish you a joyous Christmas and a prosperous and successful New Year.



CLAUS JACOBSEN
President of the
Danish Society "Dania"
GLÆGELIG JUL og GODT
NYTAAR



SIRKKA RISTOLA
President of the
Finnish Society
HAUSKAA JOULUA ja
ONNELLISTA UUTTA
VUOTTA



EARL VALGARDSON
President of the
Icelandic Society
GLEÐILEG JOL og
FARS AELT NYAR



STAN HAFSO
President of the
Sons of Norway "Solgyt"
Lodge
GLEDELEG JUL og
GODT NYTAAR



PAUL KARVONEN
DIRECTOR
MERRY CHRISTMAS and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR

on behalf of the Managing Editor
and Correspondents of the
SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE NEWS



LENNART PETERSSON
President of the
Vasa Order of America
GOD JUL och
GOTT NYT AR

Merry Christmas

SPLINTERS from the BOARD

By Claus Jacobsen

NEW BOARD MEMBER APPOINTED

New Director



SOREN SORENSEN

We welcome to the Board of Directors of The Scandinavian Centre newly appointed Director Soren Sorensen of 26 Burnham Ave., St. Albert.

Mr. Sorensen is a member of Vasa Lodge Skandia and will fill in for resigned Director Gary Johnson until the up-coming Annual Meeting in February.

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

At the shareholders' Annual Meeting several Director's seats are to be filled.

The job as Director of the Board is not to be looked upon as an honorary position only — there are certain responsibilities connected with the position.

A Director is elected by the shareholders to function in the interests of the shareholders (to the best for the Centre, to take care of the shareholders' investments to the best of his capabilities.

And believe you me, there is a job to be done by a Director in office.

The Director in charge of Centre Operations acts as a liaison between the Board and the Manager of the Centre. The Director for Centre Operations (not the entire Board) is the Manager's boss.

His job is to bring reports of the entire operations of the Centre to the monthly meeting, discuss it with the Board and instruct the Manager. However, the Manager must have some priority to handle the situation at his judgement (to the best for the Centre) and not have to wait for approval at the monthly meeting, as business could be lost in the meantime.

The Director in charge of Charter Flights comes between the Board and the Air Carriers and Flight Organizer. For him there are available more than 20 flight records to assist him in making the proper and most economical decisions. Also, earlier Flight Organizers' opinions are available by just asking.

RADIO REPORT

Listen to the Scandinavian Show on Radio Station CFCW every Saturday morning at 10:30 — 790 on your AM dial.

The Scandinavian Centre Report is broadcast on this program at approximately 11:25 a.m.

Claus Jacobsen will be giving the report in December. If you have something of interest for the broadcast give Claus a call at 489-1494.

The report during January will be given by The Scandinavian Centre News Managing Editor, Les Morris.

SEASON GREETINGS

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors and staff of The Scandinavian Centre:

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

WEDDING BELLS

Doty - Johnson

Fae Johnson and Lee Doty were joined in matrimony on Nov. 12 in a candle light service at the Augustana Lutheran church at 6 o'clock.

The matron of honor, Carol Banks, and bridesmaid, Diane Bowden, were attired in red velvet. The best man was Graham Doty and the groomsmen were George Birch.

A reception was held at the Norwood Legion for 140 guests.

It is thought that the happy couple took a trip to the mountains.

Fae Johnson is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Gust Johnson, 11145 57 St., Edmonton. Leon Doty is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Fred E. Doty, 10915 65 Ave., Edmonton.

Ellen Larson was the organist for the occasion.

Out of town guests came from: Macklin, Estevan and Regina, Sask.; Hayter, Provost, Calgary, Gwynne, St. Albert, Calmar and Ardrossan, Alta.; and Vancouver, B.C.

SMILE

A throat specialist says smoking makes women's voices harsher. If you don't believe it, try flicking your ashes on the rug.

Oldham - Hokanson

The Rose Garth, New Westminster, B.C., was the setting Oct. 9 for the wedding of Susan Irene Hokanson to John Eyre Oldham.

The reverend A. Dixon officiated at the ceremony which united the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hokanson of Edmonton and the son of Mr. and Mrs. P. A. J. Oldham of Vancouver, B.C.

The bride, given in marriage by her father, was radiant in a white gown of crepe chiffon. Attending the bride were her sister, Leah Hokanson, and Linda Caruthers as Maid of Honor. They were dressed in turquoise blue gowns, and carried a single gold chrysanthemum.

Jack Surline was best man, while Allan McLean and George McGillivray ushered.

The bride's aunt, Irene Reed, sang "Because" during the signing of the register.

A reception for 150 followed at the Rose Garth. Out of town guests came from Peace River, Edmonton, Washington and California.

The best thing about telling the truth is that you don't have to remember what you said.

List of names of presidents of respective Scandinavian societies in Edmonton:

DANISH — Claus Jacobsen, 10981 - 164 St., 489-1494

FINNISH — Sirkka Ristola, 13013 - 82 St., 476-3483

ICELANDIC — Earl Valgardson, 6515 - 112A St., 434-6794

NORWEGIAN — Stan Hafso, 11739 - 38A Ave., 435-8964

SWEDISH — Lennart Petersson, 7412 - 87 Ave., 469-0259

SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE — Gunnar Thorvaldson, 6012 - 101A Ave., 466-1570.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

It's time for snow and holly, and for carols sweet and clear,
For Christmas bells to ring again with tidings of good cheer.

And it's time again to greet you with these wishes evernew,
A Very Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year, too.

THE EDITOR SAYS

By Leslie L. Morris

Paper's Financial Problems

Just before the end of each year when the financial statements are being thought about, The Scandinavian Centre News appears to be in financial difficulties. Each year the Scandinavian Centre usually gives the paper enough money to pay off its debts, because of this.

Just prior to taking over the paper as Managing Editor in July, 1970, the paper was given a substantial sum to clear its debts. Since that time no other sums of money have been given to the paper except for the Managing Editor's salary, and the paper seems to have been financially supporting itself.

This is done by selling advertising, donations from the general readers and by levying a \$1.00 payment from all those receiving the paper who have not given a donation in the past year. This levy was only instituted for the first time last year and, for a while after, there was a tremendous show of financial support in the way of donations for the paper. This made the management extremely pleased and it helped to keep our debts down. As a matter of fact, prior to leaving on Flight 37 to Scandinavia, there was enough money in the paper's bank account to pay everything off entirely, which was done.

This was partly possible by selling yearly advertising contracts for advertisements in the paper and having some of the advertisers pay the whole year in advance. This gave the paper enough money in July of this year to dissolve our debts entirely.

Now, however, the revenue from the advertisements is not enough to pay for everything, and we are still obligated to put in the ads which were contracted for. We are now, only a few hundred dollars indebted to our printer, The Willis Printing and Lithographing Co. Ltd., who have kept printing our paper even though we are behind in our payments to them.

Naturally, if we could collect all the money owing us by the advertisers who are in arrears, and if we had more Scandinavian business men put ads in our paper, we would be better off.

Nevertheless, because of a slight financial imbalance, the Newspaper Director, Paul Karvonen, wishes to remind all those persons receiving the paper who have not given a donation to the paper in the last year, to send in their levy of \$1.00 for support of the paper. In so doing, the paper will be able to continue publication as usual.

Send your \$1.00 levy or donation of more to:

The Editor
Scandinavian Centre News
14220 - 125 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta

Those sending more than \$1.00 will be recognized and thanked by having their name printed in the paper. Your co-operation in this will be greatly appreciated by all of us concerned in the publication and continuance of The Scandinavian Centre News.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cloverdale, B.C.

Dear Mrs. Nielsen,

I am sending this little donation to the S.N. Centre paper.

In remembrance of my husband, Jack Mackey.

Mrs. H. E. Mackey
Unit 1, 17542 - 59 Ave.
Surrey, B.C.

Dear Sir!

Please, find enclosed \$2.00 (two dollars) donation to your paper, and thank you so much.

I enjoy the "News" very much, and have visited the Centre several times. Have many friends in Edmonton.

Wishing you every success and thanks again.

Sincerely yours
Anna Charlotte Nelson
8537 - 160th St.
Surrey, B.C.

Dear Sir:

The students, parents and our teacher, Mr. Stewart from St. Gabriel School, would like to extend our sincerest thanks for the informative talk that Mr. Nielsen gave on the Scandinavian countries, The Centre, etc. Our group enjoyed the two films immensely that Mr. Kristiansson showed with commentaries.

To Mrs. Cameron, thanks for the delicious lunch. Last, but not least, thank you, Mr. Morris, for making all these arrangements for us, and kindly convey this message to the above mentioned people and the organization.

Yours truly,
Dena Erickson
Rep. Student Body
St. Gabriel School
Edmonton, Alberta

Assistant Principal
P. J. Stewart

WHAT MAKES CHRISTMAS MERRY?

What makes Christmas memorable?

What makes Christmas a time apart, a glowing thing?

You!

Young you. Sensitive you. Thoughtful you. Caring you.

Prayerful you. Happy you.

You make it merry with your smiles and your sharing, with your creativity and your glad approach to a cutback in commercialism. You make it merry with your plotting and your planning SOMETHING for everyone.

You make it memorable with your graciousness to young and old alike, with your helpfulness and unselfishness, with your bringing in the spiritual. You make it memorable with your plotting and your planning SOMETHING for everyone.

You make it a time apart, a glowing thing, with your warm efforts at spreading cheer where there isn't any, with your caroling and your laughter, with your thanksgiving and your worshipful remembering of what the holiday is really all about.

And the gifts you give will be gifts that live, for they will have little to do with price and style and even appeal — but everything to do with the Savior's promise.

The Scandinavian Centre News

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There is no subscription fee. Each member of The Scandinavian Centre receives a copy. Scandinavian ethnic groups, societies or clubs may receive the paper by sending a list of names and addresses along with money at 6c a copy to cover postage.

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12204 Dovercourt Crescent 455-5570

MANAGING EDITOR

Mr. Leslie L. Morris

14220 - 125 Avenue — 455-4355

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Mrs. Anne Sahuri

16112 - 104 Ave. (50) — 489-7515

Icelandic Society:

Mrs. Lillian MacPherson

7870 Jasper Avenue - 422-7557

Leif Eiriksson Club:

Mr. Art Reykdal

8319 - 33 Avenue N.W.

Calgary Alberta

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Mrs. Edith Molstad

4703 - 50 St. Camrose 672-4585

Sons of Norway "Solglyt":

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R.R.3, Calmar Alberta

Vasa Lodge Nordstjernan:

Miss Phyllis Tapio

RR 5, Wetaskiwin, Alberta

Vasa Lodge Skandia:

Miss Joyce Hawkes

#501, 9915 - 115 St. 488-8774

Thank You For Your Donation To The Paper

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Lougheed

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Fritjof Peterson, Hinton

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Trottier

Mrs. H. E. Mackey, Surrey, B.C.

A. Rasmussen, Tofield

W. Sware, Drayton Valley

Signe Johnson, New Westminster, B.C.

SPORTS CORNER

By Ole Jensen

A general meeting was held by the Dania Soccer Club on Oct. 20. The new executive board is as follows:

Tage Aaquist was re-elected President.

Peter Jensen was the newly elected Vice President.

Ole Jensen has one more year to serve as Secretary.

Bent Leth and Otto Berg, as first and second substitutes.

Kalman Nagy will be coaching again.

"VONIN" MEANS "HOPE"

By Mrs. Henry Sumarlidason

One hears of birthday celebrations by individuals, clubs and even the provinces of Canada. Milestones of 25, 50 and 60 years are considered worthy of note and everyone wants to join in the good wishes and congratulations. To look back over 80 years as an organization in this young land is a record of great satisfaction, so, the entire community of Markerville and district was in a gala mood recently to help celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Icelandic Ladies Aid "Vonin" which was founded in Calgary in 1891 by a small band of newly arrived settlers.

While the men folk were busy earning extra dollars, their young wives felt the need of fellowship and banded together. Later, many of the members found themselves settling in the Tindastol district, west of Innisfail. Their early struggles with language, customs and climate were made more acceptable by the friendships within their circle, for "Vonin" had continued in a new setting.

Fensala Hall was in festive color with the decorated horseshoe in red, white and blue lettering; the lace cloth, donated by Mrs. Josie Janssen, decorated the table and was graced with candles, ribbons and a flag of Iceland brought over by Runi Olson; a 20 pound fruit cake beautifully trimmed with the inscription, "Vonin, 1891-1971", donated by members Mrs. Loa Johannesson of Cloverdale and Mrs. Gudrun Sveinbjornson of Vancouver. A floral bouquet, given by a ladies aid group near Reykjavik, Iceland; and, with the corsages for each member arranged by Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Benediktson of Stettler, added much color.

A program, which had been arranged by the Program Convener, Mrs. Lily Johannson, consisted of musical numbers. Mrs. Doris (Sigurdson) Eliuk sang in Icelandic and English; four children, Danny and Debbie Sveinsson and cousins Darcy and Wanda Johannson, sang; the three Grimson sisters — Madge Fitch, Kristina Grimson and Violet Sveinsson — sang a humorous tribute to Vonin; and Mr. and Mrs. Alan Sveinsson delighted everyone with vocal duets. Accompanists were Mrs. Albert (Phyllis) Johannson, Mrs. Ida Bergstrom; and Mrs. Stan Johannson accompanied her little daughter, Wendy. A humorous

poem was read by Mrs. Rosa Benediktson concerning the difficulties of a newly arrived Icelander who managed to be understood even if he mixed the two languages. Mrs. Iris (Benediktson) Bourne read a well descriptive history of the great contributions made by the club "Vonin" during its 80 years of community concern.

The guest speaker was Rev. Johnny Yoos, pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Sylvan Lake. Mr. Carl Morkerberg acted as Chairman and read many greeting cards on gifts, and telegrams. A very special letter from Governor General Roland Mitchener mentioned that his childhood in Red Deer had included friendships with Icelandic Canadians and he offered good wishes to all. Mr. Robert Thompson, M.L.A., and Mr. Cliff Doan, newly elected provincial member, added their congratulations by letters. Greetings from Nordurljos of Edmonton and the Saga Singers were also expressed.

The Good Neighbor Club, in their usual successful style, provided a delicious selection of food. Serviettes with gold lettering had been donated by Mrs. Bertha Key of Qualicum, B.C.

The glow of good will engendered by the memorable occasion was evident in the social hour following. A review of their recent trip to Iceland by way of slides by the ever popular Joe Johannson, served to establish a tribute to those early immigrants who found a rewarding life in a new land, and to their descendants who felt a debt of gratitude for the courage and energies during those first years.

Among the many who attended the celebrations were Miss Olive Goodman and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sumarlidason of Edmonton.

FACT FINDING TRIP TO SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES

The Honourable Fred Peacock, Minister of Industry, announced that the Honourable Horst A. Schmid, as Acting Minister of Industry, left on a two week fact finding trip on Nov. 26, to Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark and Belgium.

Objectives of the trip will be to establish direct contact with foreign industrialists and business leaders to investigate steps the provincial government can take to assist the Alberta business and industrial community in establishing new markets in these countries; and to in-

vestigate the possibilities of Scandinavian business and industrial leaders visiting Alberta. Indications have been received that the Scandinavian countries are looking with greater emphasis to Canada for expansion of two-way trade.

The results of this trip will be reported in detail to the Cabinet after Mr. Schmid's return on Dec. 13.

Mr. Schmid's trip is being arranged by the Federal Department of External Affairs and Scandinavian Airlines System Inc.

ALTA. GOVT. ENTERTAINS NEWS MEDIA

An invitation to an informal evening to meet the Progressive Conservative Cabinet and M.L.A.'s was sent out to the Alberta News Media from the Premier, the Hon. Peter Lougheed.

Those invited were told that it was a "leave your notebook, tape recorder, camera at home" off the record function".

It was held at The Scandinavian Centre on Thurs., Nov. 25, and a smorgasbord and refreshments were served.

The Managing Editor of The Scandinavian Centre News, Les Morris, was in attendance.

Scandapades '72

A meeting of Scandapades '72 Committee was held at the home of the Secretary, May Rushton, on Nov. 7.

Several things were discussed. It was decided that tickets to the show would be the same as last year — adults \$2.50 and children 16 years and under \$1.00. It was also decided that more outlets for tickets sales should be utilized.

The Swedish, Vasa Order of America, has been approached to head the Cafeteria. Each lodge should appoint a co-ordinator for their own lodge in this regard, and should contact Mrs. Betty Pearson —phone 455-5988 — or Mrs. Hansine Pierre —phone 455-5708— and

History Of Club "Vonin"

By Iris Bourne

In the late 1800s many people were moving west, and amongst those settlers were a number of Icelanders. The first main stop seemed to be Calgary, and while the men folk scouted this vast western area for a place to settle, and also while they worked to earn a few dollars to add to what they had, the Icelandic women, feeling a need for some social contacts and realizing that by co-operating they could accomplish more, they formed the Icelandic Ladies Aid "Vonin" in 1891 — 80 years ago this year.

The Vonin has been in continuance since that time, because when the Icelandic families moved to central Alberta and settled in the Tindastol-Markerville districts, they re-organized in 1896 and the same "Vonin" was again going strong. It has never been a very large organization, numbering around 20 ladies in the membership.

Regretfully we have not got the minute books from those early years, but we do have the information from "Almanac" for the year 1913 in which the original organization and the later re-organization is recorded.

Raising funds for the different projects was always a challenge and for many years two functions

were on the calendar for a "don't miss" in Markerville. In the spring a Box Social, Shadow Social, Foot Social, Pie Social, and, on a couple of occasions, cards with small sacks attached were sent out to one and all and your admission was 1c per year of age. In the fall there was always a Bazaar or "Tumbola". These proved very popular, especially with the younger generation. You got one draw with your admission and extras.

These functions always wound up with a dance. In earlier years the music was supplied by local talent and in later years by "The Rocky Mountain Rangers" and the "Calgary Hillbillies".

For many years a yearly raffle has been held in conjunction with these gala events and during these latter years it has been the main source of revenue.

Then of course each year there was the annual Icelandic Day picnic and the Ladies Aid "Vonin" always had a lunch counter as a matter of course.

Those were the days when coffee was made in boilers, and lemonade was squeezed from lemons.

Proceeds from these functions were donated towards the church, the cemetery, and, in later years, the Sunday school and many other community ventures.

If sickness or disaster struck, an attempt was made to lend a helping hand.

Always after Christmas the bank account generally looked pretty slim. On only one occasion is there on record that the Vonin had to borrow funds from a well wisher. It was when the seats for the church were bought. The debt, however, was soon dissolved.

The Ladies Aid meetings were always something to look forward to. The men tried to make out it was a nuisance to have to take the women folk and the children, of course — babysitting wasn't really thought too much of.

The men really enjoyed their get-together, too, and many a happy hour was spent talking and visiting over the coffee cups.

We hope we have, in some small way, been able to carry on the aims and objectives of that first group of women who founded this L.A. so long ago. We honor the memory of our members who have passed on.

Federal Govt. Aids Exchange

The Department of the Secretary of State of the Canadian federal government has a brochure regarding their travel and their exchange programme for voluntary agencies and groups. Projects which receive funding under this program must "contribute to the strengthening of national unity by developing among Canadians a sense of mutual respect, understanding and responsibility, or fostering better relations abroad."

There are seven categories of projects which the Department will aid in funding, including exchange, study, special work camps, references and seminars, artistic events, and sporting events, with exchange being given the primary focus in all.

Deadline for application for Spring and Summer projects is Jan. 15, and for Fall and Winter projects is Sept. 15. The staff at the Secretary of State Regional Offices are willing to assist with projects.

advise her of the head of the cafeteria co-ordinator.

In connection with displays, it would be appreciated if each group would contact Gunnar Thorvaldson — phone 466-1570 — and advise him of the co-ordinator in charge of displays.

It was advised that Harv Haugen will now act as Consultant to Allan Larsen, Director of Stage Settings — new phone 488-0560; Doreen Melsness has replaced Mrs. Willmore, who has resigned, as co-ordinator for the Sons of Norway Solglyt; Mrs. F. Smith will be the co-ordinator for the Icelandic Group in place of Margaret Cameron, who has other duties; Gladys Clark is the Costume Director; and Betty Travis is head of Make-Up. Knut Svidal, head of Publicity, and Les Morris will take care of all printing.

On Sun., Nov. 21, there was a group rehearsal for all performing in Scandapades '72.

The first group rehearsal in the New Year will be on Jan. 16. Everyone on the Committee is requested to attend, and it would be appreciated if each group would make a note of this date.

Scandapades '72 has its performance on Sat., Feb. 26, 1972.

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SCANDAPADES '72 - SATURDAY, FEB. 26, 1972

ICELANDIC NEWSLETTER

By Lillian MacPherson

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Thursday, December 9:

From 11:00 a.m., while the food lasts, the Ladies' Auxiliary will hold its annual bake sale at Bonnie Dook Shopping Centre, in the mall. Stock up for your Christmas visitors.

Sunday, December 12:

Come one, come all to the Christmas Party in the Viking Room of the Scandinavian Centre. From 2:00 in the afternoon until 4:00 there will be singing, films, a concert, food and perhaps Santa will even make an appearance! See you all there.

RIFLE WINNER:

The draw for the winner of the rifle was made at the Fall Dance. Gus Roland and Steini Jonsson delivered the rifle to E. Zilinski, 13412 70 St., Edmonton, who was very pleased. The Saga Singers also benefited, as a good sum was earned toward a travel fund.

PERSONALS:

We were sorry to hear about accidents involving club members during the last while.

Gail Mitchell was hospitalized

for 8 days after being involved in a car accident, in which she suffered a hairline fracture of the skull and a fractured wrist. She had been off work for over a month when we talked to her last.

Steini Jonsson burned his ankle when hot metal fell inside his boot while on the job. He suffered third degree burns, and had to be hospitalized. The Saga Singers missed his voice in the Calgary concert.

Cam Smith had a piece of machinery fall on his hip while on the job, and was off work for ten days. He was well on the mend when I last heard.

Diane Fisher from Boston was here visiting with her parents, Jo and Cec Couves. She was en route to Vancouver where she plans to join the Theatre Workshop at Simon Fraser University.

Olga Skafffeld from Winnipeg was visiting with Leif and Lucille Oddson. Olga is Leif's sister. Rosemary Chase from Fort McMurray visited in Winnipeg with the Skafffelds, and then returned to the Oddson's before going to Ft. McMurray.

Valdi and Mildred Jackson of

Elfros, Sask. spent a week-end with Lillian and Henry Sumarladason.

The Ladies' Aid held an evening coffee party for Lillian Sumarladason. They presented her with a pinwheel crystal candy dish with a brass base as a farewell gift. The farewell party was held at Pearl Valgardson's, and was well attended. Lil's association with the Ladies' Auxiliary will be sorely missed.

A wedding shower was held to honor Susan Smith, new bride of Freda and Cam Smith's son, Bob. They were married Fri. Oct. 8. The shower was held at Pearl Valgardson's on Nov. 17.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Peterson of Gimli were visiting with Don and Mickey Shaw. The Peterson's are Mickey's parents.

Lillian and Hafsteinn Bjarnason drove from Regina to Calgary with Lillian and Kristin Thorarinson to take in the Saga Singers performance there. The Bjarnason's are my parents, and I was delighted to see them there!

Well, I guess Christmas is a' coming this month, and will be here before we know it. Have a wonderful holiday season, and happiness to you all in 1972

SAGA SINGERS TRAVEL AGAIN

By Lillian MacPherson

The newly formed Leif Eiriksson Club in Calgary hosted the Saga Singers at its meeting on Sat., Nov. 13 at the University of Calgary's Calgary Hall.

The singers battled dense fog to reach the city and its university campus, but the audience's reception was so warm it was worth it. The hall was packed with people, who seemed to genuinely enjoy the music, as well as a film on the formation of Surtsey.

Don Shaw kindly M.C.d the program, expertly pronouncing the difficult Icelandic names. Margaret Helgason DeCosse from St. Paul, Alta. joined the choir, and also sang two beautiful solo pieces, as well as a duet with Jo Couves. Jon Thorhallson of Red Deer, and

John Olafson of Leduc, also sang with the choir.

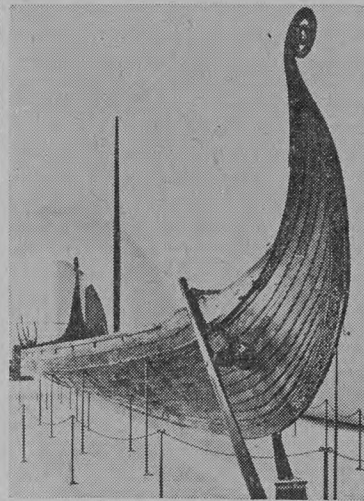
The Saga Singers are indebted to Charles Smith, who played the viola, and Fred Fridl, who played the cello, giving excellent support and accompaniment to the singing.

Comic relief was provided by Ninna Campbell, Sigrun Helgadóttir and Jon Thorhallson who sang and pantomimed "Tryggdapanarnir", commonly known as "Komdu og skodadu i kistuna mina".

The Saga Singers must thank Della Roland, director and accompanist, who so patiently rehearsed them and then quietly prayed.

Gunnar Thorvaldson, President of the Scandinavian Centre, and his wife, Shirley, also sang with the Saga Singers.

at the Viking Ships display and it was only a few minutes before we were there. Later we were to go to Frogner Park, then to Holmenkollen Ski Jump.



OSEBERG LONGSHIP

From a pamphlet called "Guide for The Viking Ships" written by Arne Emil Christensen, Jr., we learn:

"The Viking Ship Museum, which is part of the University Collection of National Antiquities, was designed by the architect, Arnstein Arneberg, for the three ships found at Oseberg, Gokstad and Tune.

The Oseberg ship, excavated in 1904, is by far the richest of the three finds. The blue clay of the subsoil and the airtight burial mound have preserved wood, leather and fabrics remarkably well, despite the lapse of more than 1000 years. The ship itself, the most important part of the find, is about 75 ft. long. Built entirely of oak, it has a frieze of animals carved on the stem and stern posts.

The top of the stem, which is shaped like the head of a serpent, is the only genuine Viking "dragon's head" extant in Norway.

"The burial customs of the Viking Age were based on the idea that the deceased should be suitably equipped to continue after death the life he or she had lived on earth. Among the wealth of equipment found in the Oseberg grave were three sledges (sleighs) and a wagon; together with the ship itself, they were intended to enable the deceased to travel both by land and sea. Like most of the wooden implements in the find, the sledges and wagon are richly ornamented with animal carvings. It is evident that several different woodcarvers have had a hand in the work. The wear on the runners of the three decorated sledges and on those of the fourth sledge, a plain one, shows that these sledges really were built for transport purposes. It is, however, highly improbable that the roads of Norway in the Viking Age were such as to permit of extensive travel by wheeled vehicles, so the wagon was probably intended for ceremonial rather than practical use.

"The remarkable properties of the Oseberg mound ensured that even textiles were preserved for more than 1000 years. There are remains of several different fabrics, both Norwegian and imported.

"Compared to the richly decorated Oseberg ship, the Gokstad ship is rather plain, but decorated or not, the vessel's clean lines make

it a thing of grace and beauty. The Oseberg ship was built about 800 A.D., the Gokstad ship 50-60 years later.

"Beside the other two ships, the Tune ship is rather a sorry sight; originally, however, it must have been a fine little vessel, beautifully constructed from first class materials.

"When the Oseberg grave was excavated in 1904, it was the richest Viking burial mound ever found, an honour it still holds, despite more recent finds. In fact, both in quality and historical significance it ranks with the richest finds in the annals of archaeology."

Both Beth and I were extremely fascinated with this museum with all the old findings. I was surprised to see that these ships were so small and open to the weather, and it made me think how rugged and physically strong these men must have been to sail the oceans as they did. I am glad I am living in the day and age I do, for life must have been a great hardship in those days.

We now boarded our buses again and headed for Frogner Park which was quite a ways north from where we were at the Norsk Folkemuseum, and yet it was still in the city and only a few minutes walk from where we were actually staying. We enjoyed seeing the sights as we went.

The buses stopped in front of the main entrance of the park and as we walked toward the iron wrought gates I suddenly felt an overwhelming feeling — a feeling you get when you see something that is so impressive there is only your feelings to explain it. To put into words the sight we saw is impossible. A person just has to see it to believe it. I've never seen any of the seven Wonders of the World, but this, to me, was the Wonder of the World.

Even the wrought iron gates were beautifully worked into figures of men and women, both at the entrance to The Vigeland Sculpture Park and the smaller gates of the Monolith plateau.

From a pamphlet written by Ragana Stang and translated into English by Ardis Grosjean called "The Vigeland Sculpture Park in Oslo" I shall take excerpts to try and give some impressions of the vastness of the project and the greatness of the sculptor, Gustav Vigeland. Talking about the Fountain complex:

"The finished work as we see it in Frogner Park is Gustav Vigeland's commanding synthesis of everything which had fired his spirit since his early youth. The theme or motif is all-inclusive, and the work itself is borne up by a bountiful imagination and by deep humility towards life, for it is life itself which is the material from which this epic poem in bronze is fashioned."

Vigeland's work has often been shrouded in controversy. During the planning stages many people "felt that the Fountain would inevitably have a degrading effect on public morals".

Although the Fountain was the first to be done, let us start at the gate and follow through the park.

The Vigeland sculptures in Frogner Park are arranged over an area of 75 acres and comprises

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Scandinavian Centre President Robbed

While Gunnar Thorvaldson, President of the Scandinavian Centre, and his wife, Shirley, were away to Calgary to sing with the Saga Singers, an Icelandic group, their home at 6012 - 101A Ave., Edmonton, was broken into.

The thieves entered through the milk shute, doing some damage in so doing. A TV, radio and other items were taken as well as helping themselves to a bottle of wine and then breaking it on the floor.

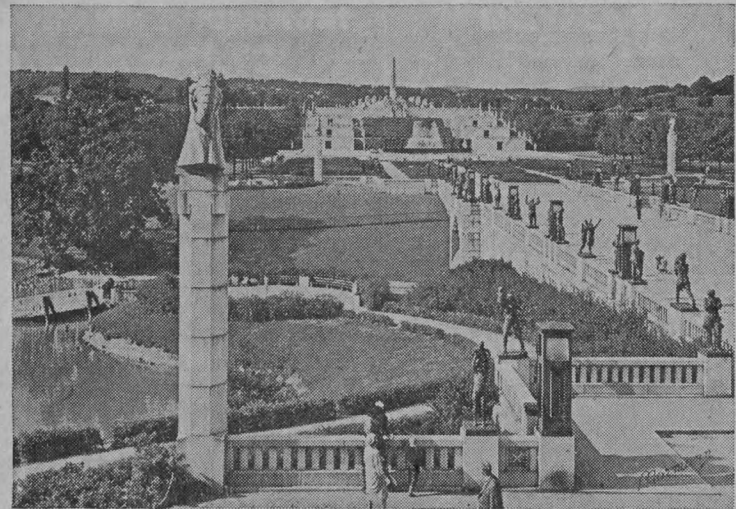
One clue is that the robbers were not musically inclined, for they left an expensive flute of Gunnar's son, Gary, which was in full view. The Thorvaldsons had insurance.

Island Born Off Iceland

Surtsey is the name of an island which was formed off the main coast of Iceland. The volcanic eruption that formed it began visibly on Nov. 14, 1963, some 20 miles off Iceland's south coast. The next day, the island was first sighted — a narrow ridge, about 30 feet high and some 1,200 feet in length. Further eruptions between Aug. 19, 1966 and June 5, 1967 added about 120 acres, giving the island a total area of 700 acres.

Half a dozen species of higher plant life have been found on Surtsey, the first one to take root being a sea rocket (Cakile edentula), which was discovered on June 3, 1965. The island abounds in bird life. During the summer, scientists sojourn on the island, living in a hut built for their use. Members of the public are not allowed, because the idea is to find out how life gains hold in a sterile environment. Unauthorized visitors might disturb the scientists' unusual laboratory by accidentally bringing seeds or such on to the island.

More information is available in the book, "Surtsey: The New Island In The North Atlantic," by Sigurdur Thorarinnsson, published in 1967 and distributed in Canada by Macmillan.



THE VIGELAND SCULPTURE GROUNDS, FOGNER PARK

(Continued from Page 4)

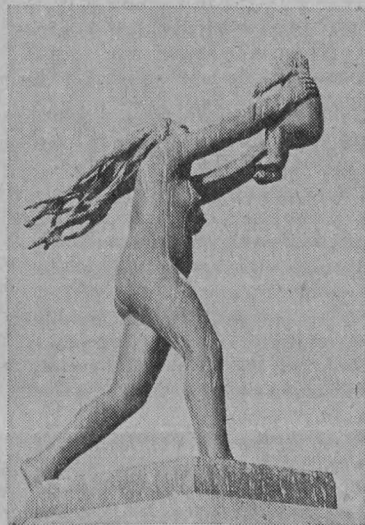
150 figures, all by Gustav Vigeland. The artist never explained these works, leaving the interpretation to each beholder. When Vigeland was asked to explain some of his work he replied: "The granite groups are easy to understand, for they are the world of reality. When we come to the column, we are in the world of the imagination. Let everyone interpret it as he likes."

After passing through the main gates the vastness first strikes you — there is too much for one human mind to comprehend. Walking down a long, wide path we reach a stone bridge 300 ft. long. On each side of the bridge are 58 bronze nude figure groups: "a mother lifts her child high in the air out of sheer happiness, boys dart past wild with the joy of living, a man and woman dance through life together, a chubby little girl pats her stomach contentedly while her little playmate furiously stamps his foot in protest against the world of the adults. He has been nicknamed 'Sinnataggen' (Hothead), and has become a kind of mascot for the city of Oslo.

"At the ends of the bridge Vigeland erected four granite groups with an unusual theme, one which had fascinated him throughout his life as an artist; Man's struggle against monsters." And as far as I know, the only non-nude statue, of the 150, is one of these columns.

As we walked across the bridge looking at these marvelously sculptured and natural looking statues I felt a little embarrassed at first. However, the statues were so beautiful and life-like that embarrassment changed to wonder, amazement and appreciation of such a wonderful display of art.

When I had studied art appreciation in school I marvelled at the works of Michelangelo the great Italian sculptor, painter, architect and poet. I even have a replica statuette of Venus de Milo in my



STATUE OF MOTHER WITH CHILD

own home, but these statues were equal to anything I could ever imagine.

We were being hurried along by the guide so I had decided I must come back again and spend more time here. At the end of the bridge past a small flower garden of multitudinous roses we came upon the Fountain and Layrinth.

The Fountain complex is too complicated to begin to explain here, but it was beautiful and magnificent. The Fountain itself is a huge bowl held up by four giant men statues with the water flowing out over the bowl and into the pool below.

Around the pool are statues and a frieze depicting the life span of a human being done in extremely sensitive and truthful fashion.

Becoming more amazed and overwhelmed every turn and step, we continued on and up a tiered pyramidal low hill in concrete and stone and at the summit lay the most fantastic and transcendental scene I have ever witnessed. I have never before beheld such a beautiful and tremendously satisfying structure in statues.

In the middle of the summit lay the "Monolith with its 121 human figures struggling upwards. Some climb up, others collapse. There are those who help and those who are helped. Some have ceased to struggle, others rise jubilantly towards the light, the sun, the realm of ideals. 'Let everyone interpret it as he likes.'

"... the enormous block of stone, weighing 260 tons, from the Iddefjord quarry," ... "took three stone cutters thirteen years to complete" and stood 50 ft. high.

There were other fascinating statues around the base of the pyramidal structure too numerous and complicated to put into words, but carved in stone with such naturalness that you felt they may speak to you, yet you felt awkward because they wore no clothes.

There were many other stone carvings such as "The Wheel of Life" — two human wheels flanking the bridge and "The Sundial" — situated between the Monolith plateau and the Wheel of Life, but the Monolith was the epitome of Vigeland's work here, as far as I

VASA LODGE SKANDIA

BY JOYCE HAWKES

The November 6 meeting was held in the Nordic Room with Lennart Petersson presiding. Sick members reported were: Linnea Christensen, Irma McMaster, Millie Weiss, Winnie Pearson, Joan Knutson, John Jerrat, Elof Linden, John Johnson, John Bergstrom, Miles Knutson.

Two new members were initiated and welcomed. They are Mona and John Cumberbatch.

Christmas cards, with both Swedish and English greetings, are on sale by Lennart Petersson.

During November, Swedish les-

sons were taught at 8 p.m. every Monday, but some changes will be made in the time later on. This is in the Scandinavian Centre.

A good lunch was served by Margaret Engvall, Fay Litven and Verena Larson.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, December 4 — 7.00 p.m.

Regular monthly meeting of the Vasa Lodge Skandia in the Nordic Room. Lunch and entertainment by the Ladies Auxiliary.

Saturday, January 8 — 7:00 p.m.

Regular monthly meeting. Officers for the coming year will be installed at this meeting.

Saturday, January 22.

Curling Club Bavarian Night at the Centre.

VASA GLIMPSES

Carol Markstrom was hurt in a car accident on Oct. 21. By the time you read this Carol will be out of hospital. She is coming along fine.

The Smorgasbord held on Oct. 16 was a very successful affair.

Showers for Fae Johnson have been held by Carol Banks and Joan Petersson.

Don and Evelyn Johnson went to Lundbreck Falls on a hunting trip. Milt Fawcett has also done some hunting in the Edson area.

Linnea Lodge tells me that the singing group are busy rehearsing every Sunday. We should be hearing some of the results of this soon.

Martha Hokanson sends greetings to all her friends in Edmonton. She and Mary Pearson had a lovely trip to Reno. Mary also enjoyed her visit at the West Coast.

Henry and Linnea Lodge were away for a fortnight during October.

On their way to Nevada they visited with relatives and friends. In Prince George they were house guests of Harold and Dagney Erickson, and also visited Ken and Lynn Sullivan.

Thanksgiving was spent with Linnea's brother George Wicklund and family in Chase. In Vancouver they stayed with Doug and Zofia Morris, and visited their mother Mrs. Signe Wicklund. On Vancouver Island they were guests of their cousins, Gunnar and Winnie Syren.



"SINNATAGGEN" (HOTHEAD) OSLO MASCOT

was concerned. What the pamphlet says is this:

"The Frogner Sculpture Park is Vigeland's crowning work. It has been the source of much contention. Abuse was countered by praise, condemnation by blind admiration. But then an artist's work ought to arouse controversy, provided the artist has something to say to his fellow men — and this is certainly true of Gustav Vigeland."

I must end this episode here, however, for to write anything more after remembering Frogner Park would only be an anticlimax.

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RONNING LODGE

By Edith Molstad

COMING EVENTS

General Meeting — Wednesday
Dec. 15

A General Meeting will be held in the Camrose Lutheran College Cafeteria. This is the last meeting of 1971. There will be nominations and election of officers. Would all members please attend. This is your opportunity to give your opinion and to help select new officers for the Lodge.

Annual Christmas Party —
Saturday, Dec. 18

The Annual Christmas Party will be held at the Camrose Lutheran College Cafeteria starting at 7 p.m. The Junior Directors, Rita Nyback and Marie Swanson, are in charge of this party. There will be coffee and lunch for the adults and treats for the children.

CARDS OF THANKS

The President and Executive would like to thank all the committees and members for their work and co-operation in making the Lutfisk supper such a tremendous success.

A special "Thank You" to Maxine Nordstrom and the Bestamor Hobby Club for their fine display of Norwegian artifacts at the Lutfisk supper, and to Mrs. Borace for the lovely cushion that was raffled the same evening.

Congratulations are extended to Maxine and Henry Nordstrom. They celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on Sun., Nov. 7.

The Ladies Drill Team are again selling tickets on two Norwegian sweaters. The sweaters are hand made in Norway, and the winner is able to pick the style and pattern. If the winner does not wish to have the sweaters he may take the alternate prize of \$100.00. The tickets are \$1.00 each and may be obtained from any member of the Drill Team.

OBITUARIES

Mr. Lloyd Griffin Moger of Camrose died Sept. 25 at the age

of 60.

Mrs. Alma Grettum, wife of Clarence Grettum, died suddenly Nov. 6 at the age of 77.

CHRISTMAS IS THE SAME

Christie Lund Coles

It does not matter if the day is white

Or if the sunlight permeates the air;

Or clouds hang low with rain; the delight

Of Christmas is the same most everywhere.

Wherever men are kind and children run

Like candles flickering upon a tree, Their faces lifted toward the

flake or sun,

Their eyes filled with a child's sweet purity;

Wherever home is safe and love is true,

And the faith of centuries is couched in prayer,

There Christmas will be good, its promise new,

Revivified by His great love and care.

What matters is that Christmas is the same

Where people kneel together in his name.



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A MERRY CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS IS PEOPLE

The old and the young, the real and the fancied, those yet with us and those who have gone. . . . The people of Christmas are much the same throughout all ages . . .

People indeed are Christmas. Without them the holiday would be empty and soon forgotten.

Youthful carolers bringing joyful Christmas music to the aged and infirm in their hospital beds . . . and . . .

A weary delivery boy hurrying home after work on Christmas Eve to meet with friends and family . . . and . . .

An excited youth oh-so-carefully putting the final touches on a sweater knit for Mom or bookends made especially for Dad's office . . . or . . .

Mom and Dad, after wrapping packages late Christmas Eve, looking in on their sleeping family and then kneeling together to thank God for such wonderful children.

Tiny Tim, high on the shoulder of Bob Cratchet, wishing to all the world, "God Bless Us, every one!" . . . and . . .

A glorious heavenly choir announcing wondrous news to startled shepherds in the fields.

Anxious shepherds hastening after a brilliant star, fearful of missing the wonderful Child whose birth they have so long awaited.

Solemn wise men bringing their rare and costly gifts to the newly born Prince of Peace.

Joseph and Mary by the side of a manger, humbled and grateful for the incomparable blessing God has brought into their lives.

The remarkable infant Jesus, wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

By Fielding Nelson

Giving Is The Joy Of Christmas

Christmas Bureau 71', sponsored by the Edmonton Social Planning Council, swung into action for it's 32nd season on Nov. 22. Over 20,000 people in Edmonton, from all walks of life, temporarily unemployed, single parent families, pensioners, widows disabled persons, widowers, and many others, will need assistance if they are to enjoy "turkey" instead of "bologna" and "Christmas pudding" instead of "jello" and some toys for the kids, through CHED Santa's Anonymous, on Christmas Day. These are our own Edmontonians. . . . They need pennies, dimes, and dollars No amount is too small. . . . You can truly celebrate Christmas. . . . By helping those in need. . . . The impossible. . . . Can be possible. . . . If you care. . . . Do you care? ? People. . . . Help. . . . People When you mail your donation to:

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Royal Canadian Legion 10030 - 103 Ave. 422-5231

Salvation Army 9656 Jasper Ave. #2 424-6924

The Bureau functions as a "confidential clearing house" to avoid duplication and co-ordinates all "giving and receiving" in Edmonton Area.

Last Christmas over 15,000 peo-

LUCIA BUNS

½ cup sugar
1 cube butter
2 cups cold milk
2 cakes yeast
1½ teaspoons salt
¼ teaspoon powdered saffron
2 tablespoons hot water
3 eggs
5 - 6 cups flour
beaten egg
raisins
granulated sugar

Add sugar and butter cut in pieces to cold milk. Heat, stirring until butter is melted. Cool milk to lukewarm and add crumbled yeast, salt and saffron soaked in hot water. Stir in 3 beaten eggs and 2 cups flour. Beat well, then add 3 or 4 cups of flour until dough is soft but manageable. Knead until smooth. Cover and allow to rise until double in bulk. Turn out on lightly floured board and form into long rolls about ¾-inch in diameter. Cut rolls into 8-inch lengths and form each into an "S" with extra curly ends. Cross two of these, forming a swastika with coiled ends. Brush buns with a slightly beaten egg, put a raisin into center of each coil and one in the middle and sprinkle lightly with granulated sugar. Allow to rise again, then bake in 400 deg. oven for 20 minutes or until slightly browned.

ple (3,862 families) were registered with the Bureau 372 duplications were avoided, and CHED Santa's Anonymous delivered toys to 10,000 children.

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Scandinavian History and Culture Probed

NORWEGIAN PROGRAM RADIO CKUA

NORTHMAN INHERITANCE PRE-VIKING Thomas M. Nelson and James Alfredson

Viking Age is but the final pre-Christian portion of a powerful momentum that had been building up for centuries in our ancestral North. The Northmen culture truly reaches its crest and finest expression near the end of the Viking period, perhaps around the year 1000 of our era. Impressive as the Viking period is, it has had the effect of blinding us to other almost as important aspects of our Northman inheritance.

In several programs we have tried to trace the Scandinavian culture back in time. Faint origins may perhaps be found 80,000 years ago. Increasingly certain evidence shows as we move forward through the middle then late Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. Thus the Northman inheritance takes in more than raids and conquests. Just before the Viking period, there were the huge land movements known to scholars as the "Age of Migrations."

Dr. Nelson and Mr. Alfredson will remark upon the period when, one after one, another tribe is migrated from the Scandinavian homelands and by permanent conquest established the Northmen culture throughout Europe and North Africa.

Mr. James Alfredson — You have summarized material on the Neolithic and Bronze Age from Professor Owen's book, "The Germanic People". It seems curious that we take material describing the Northmen culture from a book with this title. It occurs to me that what we are calling Northmen others sometimes call Germanic. Is this so, and if so, doesn't it seem curious to do so?

Dr. Nelson — Yes, I guess it is, and no, I do not think it is curious that we do so.

Mr. Alfredson — What is the

significance of two words rather than one?

Dr. Nelson — The word "Germanic" is used by scholars usually in connection with the language spoken rather than with the cultures developed by the speakers of the language. True, usually persons speaking similar languages are more similar than those speaking dissimilar languages. However, this is not automatically the case as I hope the following example will show.

Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, modern German and English are sufficiently similar in structure and origins to be grouped together within a general language category called "Indo-European". Gaelic, Latin, Greek and some other languages from the Mid East and even Far East are also classed as Indo-European. These are more similar to English than is Finnish. We can see from this why we must be careful not to confuse culture and language.

Norwegian and Finnish cultures are closer than the Norwegian and Armenian, even though both of the latter are of the Indo-European type, while Finnish is not.

Whenever we are discussing culture we are confronting an entity having a very complex relation to language. Language is not by itself the culture of the people, although many persons confuse them habitually. We can see the distinction operating in the case of the Norwegian language itself. When the worship of Odin, Thor, etc., was given up in Scandinavia in favour of Christ or the Trinity we have so sharp a break with the past that a new cultural form emerges. But the old language continues to be used within this new cultural context.

In general, culture changes more rapidly than language. Language conserves previous culture. It lags behind often by hundreds of years. Just think for a moment how many people speaking the Germanic lan-

guages today know that Thursday says this is "Thorsday", Wednesday is "Odinsday", Friday is "Frigsday", and so on. Not many. It serves as a good example of the inertia of language as compared to general culture. There is no use confusing ourselves needlessly. So, let us be circumspect and use the most appropriate descriptions for the culture emitting from the Scandinavian area. The best term seems to be "Northmen".

Mr. Alfredson — There must be other words that are equally satisfactory?

Dr. Nelson — "Nordman", which translates to Northman in English is apparently the name given by the early waves of Germanic speaking migrants to those remaining behind. Thus the word "Nordman" or Northman is a name which came from their own language. This is not the case with the word Germanic. "Germanium", from which Germanic and German is derived, is a latin word, perhaps of Celtic origin ultimately.

Following your suggestion, we might use the word "Scandinavian" instead of Northman. Still, we must reckon with the fact that there is nothing so descriptive of a migrating people as the direction of their origin. In fact, the Roman populations of Gaul themselves used this Germanic word as a blanket term for the threat from the North in preference, apparently, to the latin term "Scandian" from which the word Scandinavian is obviously derived.

Most importantly for us, however, is the ability of the term Northman to unify a succession of migrations, assaults by land and finally, in the case of the Viking era, assault by both land and sea within a single cultural framework. One tends not to lose contact with the bigger facts. The original similarity of speech, literature, writing, religion, weapons, lands of origin, genetic

(Continued on Page 12)



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FINNISH SOCIETY



By Anne Sahuri

Children's Christmas party will be held on Dec. 5 at the Nordic room, Scandinavian Centre, starting at 2:00 p.m. All interested children will take part in the program.

Adult Christmas party will be held on Dec. 11 in the Nordic room, Scandinavian Centre, starting at 8:00 p.m. "Joulupuuro" will be served along with other goodies. Everyone is asked to bring a small gift (about \$1.00) to Santa's bag, without names.

The preliminary annual meeting will be held on Dec. 14 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Karvonen, 12204 - Dovercourt Cres. Welcome all.

Pastor Antti Lepisto was in Edmonton recently. While here he

was a guest speaker at Augustana Lutheran Church where he also held a Finnish service. While in the city he also conducted a prayer service at the home of Mr. and Mrs. V. Kujala.

Pastor Lepisto will be in Edmonton at Christmas-time and a Finnish speaking service will be held on Dec. 26 at the Augustana Lutheran Church, starting at 2:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Vesaniemi of Dawson Creek, B.C., who were married recently in Thunder Bay, Ont. On their way back to Dawson Creek the young couple stopped in Edmonton for awhile.

David Kujala played some beautiful well known classical pieces of music on piano at Finnish Society's opening dance on Nov. 6. During the same night a late presentation of a chairman's gavel was made to Mr. J. Koivuneva of Calgary. Mrs. B. Rama accepted the gavel on behalf of Mr. Koivuneva.

Superintendent Henry A. Larsen

Royal Canadian Mounted Police 1928-1963

(As given in a speech to the Torske Clubben at the Scandinavian Centre by Ombudsman of the Province of Alberta, Mr. George B. McClellan.)

There is an old saying in English, the source of which is Henry David Thoreau, 1817-62, U.S. naturalist and author. It is this:

"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away."

It is of such a man that I want to speak today. A man who heard a distant drummer when he was very young indeed. This was a man who made good on that statement which we have all made as children:

"When I grow up I want to be —"

I know that most of you will have heard of him, and it is perhaps particularly appropriate that I should speak of him before this organization, for although he was a great Canadian he was of Norwegian birth and he did not become a Canadian until well on into his middle years. He brought fame and honour to the country of his birth and to his adopted country both. I refer to the late Superintendent Henry A. Larsen of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and in the same breath that you mention the name of Larsen, you mention the little ship "Saint Roch," for they are equally famous.

Today the 104 foot stubby little ship lies in a concrete dry dock beside the Vancouver Centennial Maritime Museum. She is enclosed by a 5,000 square foot building erected especially for her, after years of neglect when she was allowed to rot and almost lost to the history of this country. The visitor will read on the signs beside her, and he will read with pride if he is a Canadian or a Norwegian, that she was the first ship ever, and the only one ever, to sail the Northwest Passage both ways. She is the only ship ever to sail clear around the North American continent twice. She was the first ship to circumnavigate the North American continent.

But what of Larsen, the man who commanded her on both her voyages over the top of the world. His Norwegian home was Fredrikstad on the east bank of the Oslofjord some 50 miles south of Oslo. His distant drummer was Roald Amundsen, who had grown up in the village of Sarpsborg, 10 miles north-east of Fredrikstad, quite close to Larsen's own home town.

Amundsen had been his hero from the time he was a boy, and he had decided that one day he would duplicate Amundsen's feat of crossing the Northwest Passage over the top of North America. Amundsen had done it in 1905 and '06 with his little ship "Gjoa". He was the first and no ship had done it since.

Born in 1899, Larsen took to the sea at the age of 12 by signing on a merchant ship. He used to say:

"All the boys from Borge went to sea early."

He served on Norwegian ships for years and he came to Canada in the 1920's.

The proximity of his home town to that of his hero had given him an interest in the great Arctic explorers, and he had studied and read everything he could about them. It was only natural that he should eventually come to Canada, but not before he had spent years qualifying himself for the task that lay ahead. He was a qualified navigator, and he had earned his seaman's ship the hard way. He had sailed the seven seas aboard sailing ships before transferring to steam. He had served in the Norwegian Navy, and he was a graduate of the Norwegian Polytechnic of Navigation. Years later he served as First Officer on board one of the Trans-Atlantic Lines ships.

When he came to Canada, almost immediately he became mate of a Northern crating ship with the fascinating name of "Old Maid No. 2".

I wonder what destiny decreed that about the same time the Royal Canadian Mounted Police obtained authority to build a vessel of its own to serve its Arctic Detachments along the Arctic Coast. That little vessel built to withstand the pressures of Arctic ice, homely and utilitarian looking, was launched in 1928 in North Vancouver. She was named by the then Minister of Justice, the Honourable Ernest LaPointe who was the Minister responsible for the Force. She was named by him after Saint Roch, the Saint who was known as "the guardian of the poor", and after whom the Minister's home parish had been named.

From 1928 until 1940 the Saint Roch ran between Vancouver and the mouth of the Mackenzie River supplying police posts. In late summer, if the ice permitted, she would patrol among the islands, and sometimes did not return to the Bering Straits but wintered in the Arctic. There she was boarded over and became frozen in a floating Detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, from which patrols were made visiting distant Eskimo tribes, taking the census and doing all that work for which the Force has been responsible in the Arctic for so many years. It is not always realized that the greater part of the Force's work in the Arctic has always been work of a welfare nature. At least 70% of it had, in my day as Commissioner, and I presume still has, little or nothing to do with police work as we know it in the South.

Larsen joined the Force in 1928, and he was at once assigned to the newly launched Saint Roch as her navigator, and with the rank of Corporal. In 1935, with the rank of Sergeant, he became skipper. These two sturdy voyagers are now linked together inseparably as long as the history of the Canadian North is remembered.

In the Spring of 1940, while the Saint Roch was docked in Esquimalt, British Columbia, refitting for her trip North, Skipper Larsen received an order from the Commissioner. It was as follows:

"You will proceed to Halifax by way of the Arctic."

Larsen's distant drummer had brought him by the seven seas to his destiny, which he had planned as a youngster — the crossing of the Northwest Passage. This time, however, he was to do it from West to East, a new first, if he could manage it.

He had a crew of nine including himself, and Larsen thought he might make it to Halifax in ninety days. It was in fact to take over two years.

I was having lunch in the Vancouver Club and I suddenly looked out the window and I saw her sailing across the harbour towards the first narrows bridge, on the beginning of one of the great Maritime voyages of history. I'll never forget, that she seemed such a little ship. I didn't know Larsen then, but he was later to become my good friend.

Seventy days out of Vancouver the vessel reached Herschel Island and by then they were bucking into ice. Supplies were unloaded for Herschel Island Detachment, and the Saint Roch headed Eastward as far as Victoria Island, where the closing in of the ice made it necessary to winter. By that time they had gone through experiences where chunks of ice had struck the ship's rudder, spinning the wheel out of the helmsman's hands. The poor man would be sent flying with his arms practically wrenched from their sockets, and would have to pick himself up from the deck. Blizzards and smotherers of snow swept down from the North.

The Saint Roch was allowed to freeze in and became a police winter Detachment.

With the sleigh dogs which had been taken aboard at Herschel, the crewmen took turns at patrolling the surrounding areas and, odd as

it may sound, to enforce the Game Laws.

It was a long winter for it was July 31st before the Saint Roch broke out of her winter harbour, and the voyage was further interrupted by the vessel having been ordered by radio to return to the mouth of the Mackenzie to investigate a shooting.

As a result of that delay, she made only 400 miles East before she was once more forced into winter harbour at Pasley Bay on Boothia Peninsula.

Again she was boarded over like a house and set up as a winter Detachment. In that winter, Larsen, with Constable Hunt, travelled an estimated 1100 miles by dog team, going through the islands and checking on the game, the native population, weather conditions and so on. During the 61 days they were absent from the ship, it was never milder than 48 degrees below zero.

In February Constable Chartrand, a happy-go-lucky French-Canadian whom I knew well, died of a heart attack.

He is buried beneath a large cairn of rocks at Pasley Bay. A patrol by dog team had to be made some 200 miles and back to obtain a priest to carry out the last rites.

After another 10 months on the ice, the Saint Roch sailed again on the third summer of her voyage. She was running low on fuel oil, and provisions had to be rationed. The engine was performing badly and the sails were in constant use. Finally she broke a cylinder head.

However, on she went and to knowledgeable Northerners it is almost awesome as to how her crew ever managed to work her through the Passage and around the Pond Inlet on Baffin Island. They were as far North as 16 degrees of the North Pole. From Pond Inlet, Larsen set sail immediately for the Davis Strait before ice could trap them for yet another winter. Finally she broke in to the open ocean.

Surely she deserved fair winds from here on South, but no such luck.

She was beaten by Fall gales and at one time almost sunk. Her crew were dog tired from weariness and from watching for ice bergs and enemy submarines, for this was war time. Finally, on October 8th the little vessel entered the harbour at Sydney, Nova Scotia.

There is a story told that, as she was coming into the harbour, she came close to passing a harbour craft. It is said that one of the crew cupped his hands to his mouth and hailed the harbour craft in these words:

"This is the Saint Roch, 819 days out of Esquimalt by way of the Northwest Passage."

After a quick refit, the Saint Roch went back to work, because there was a war to be won. With Larsen as her skipper and now commissioned as Inspector, she worked the East side of the continent until 1944.

Then, with the new engines and a fresh refit, she was again ordered to sail the Northwest Passage from East to West. This time she cleared Sydney on July 19th, and whatever gods there are who had befriended her and frozen her into the Northwest Passage for 29 months on the first voyage, smiled on her. She docked in Vancouver harbour on October 16th, just 90 days later — 819 days from West to East and 90 days from East to West.

All members of the crew who made the first voyage were awarded the polar medal by His Majesty the King, George VI. Larsen and Sergeant Farrar, who made the return voyage, were awarded a bar to the polar medal. All members of the first trip also wore the service medals of World War II, having sailed in hostile waters.

Larsen went on to become a Superintendent and the Commanding Officer of "G" Division, which is

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(Continued from Page 8)

the Arctic Division of the Force. He had had some minor heart trouble and the decision was taken that he could not again make another hazardous voyage through the North, although in the course of his duties he frequently visited many parts of the Arctic.

However, times had changed and these trips were made by plane. Following the war, the air age caught up with the Force and the long Arctic patrols were made by air. It is only a handful of years ago that the last dog patrol was made to be replaced by the ubiquitous snowmobile.

In 1950 the Saint Roch was ordered from Esquimalt on the West Coast to Halifax, but this time via the Panama Canal. When she completed that voyage, which was in fact a triumphal tour, for her crew were entertained at American ports on both the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. Larsen was, of course, commanding the Arctic Division at Headquarters and another Marine Division Officer commanded the ship on that voyage.

I have often thought that someone in the Force lacked a sense of history for not letting Larsen make that final trip through the Panama Canal, for when it was completed the little Saint Roch had become the first vessel ever to circumnavigate the North American continent.

There can be no question that that first voyage, and I have only touched on some of the gruelling episodes that happened, was one of the greatest feats of Arctic navigation. Time does not permit me to talk of the many times they were trapped in ice and almost crushed to death. There was a time when the crew watched a huge 40 foot blue whale squeezed to a mass of blood, bones and meat by ice right in front of the ship. They sailed under piled up ice which hung over the top of the ship like Damocles' sword. Time after time she was squeezed up out of the ice, but fortunately she was built for just that purpose, and her bottom was sheathed with Australian iron bark.

I think one of the greatest tributes paid to Larsen was the invitation by the King of Norway to attend a memorial celebration to honour the great explorer, Amundsen, in his home town. Larsen never ceased to marvel that he had been selected for such a great occasion, and I believe he helped unveil a memorial plaque to his hero. No greater tribute could have been paid to him in his own mind, and such was the modesty of the man, that it never dawned on him that he, too, was one of the great explorers.

It should not be overlooked that these two voyages were not his only contribution. Year after year he took the little Saint Roch into the North, supplying Detachments, freezing in in the winter, and patrolling by dog team the Eskimos, whom he loved so dearly.

He is today a legend among the Eskimos. They loved him as he loved them, and it was his greatest sorrow in later years that he saw what he considered the ruination of the Eskimo way of life by the white man.

He knew and held a friendship and respect of all the great Arctic explorers of his time. Amundsen he had met in Seattle. Peter Freuchen was his friend. I watched him do a television series with Steffanson, and I marvelled at the modest way in which he constantly deferred to Steffanson whom he regarded as a great Arctic explorer. You realized that the man had no real comprehension that he was at least the equal of Steffanson. You also realized, of course, that Steffanson knew it and gave him the tribute that was his due.

I always remember how proud I was when I visited the great Festival of Britain in the 1950's. There was one room dedicated to the Arctic and Antarctic explorers of the British Commonwealth. The design of the display was as if you were walking along the inside of a ship and looking out through portholes. Each porthole had a name of one of the explorers on it, and as you peered out you peered into a diorama of an Arctic or Antarctic scene

in which the ship or place of the explorer would be seen, and probably his figure with that of members of his party. You went along the portholes and there were the names of Sir John Franklin, Ross, and the others and finally Larsen. I told Henry about it when I came back to Canada, and he was tremendously pleased, and so completely awed to have been included in such great company. I looked through that porthole with his name on it, and there was the little Saint Roch in replica, frozen in the ice with the dog team starting out on a long patrol.

Of course he was a hero to every member of the Force, and I was proud to call him friend.

When the war was over, the King of Norway was kind enough to award to me the Haakon VII Cross of Liberation. It was one of the three awarded to members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

During the war I was on Intelligence and Security work in Eastern Canada, and I had some association and fun and games with the Norwegian underground. I also assisted in the organization and training of the Royal Norwegian Air Force Service Police, which was designed to go into Norway when it was invaded, and to take over from the Federal Police which had, of course, been so thoroughly Nazified. Fortunately, the invasion was not required, for as we all here know, the Germans surrendered before that became necessary.

The Norwegian Ambassador in Ottawa kindly asked me if I would like to have an officer stand up with me when he presented me with my medal. I was delighted, and I at once asked Henry Larsen if he would be the officer. He accepted with his usual graciousness, and the two of us departed for the Norwegian Embassy for the ceremonies.

The Cross of Liberation was duly pinned to my uniform by the Ambassador with the appropriate words, and we adjourned to the anteroom to wet our whistles in the appropriate Norwegian way. However, if I had any ideas in my mind that I was the hero of the day, they came to naught very quickly.

The senior staff members of the Norwegian Embassy were with us on the occasion, and when I introduced Superintendent Larsen to the group, there was no doubt that in the eyes of my Norwegian friends I ran a very poor second to Henry Larsen. They surrounded him and they belaboured him with questions, and remarks of admiration. Henry was in good form. With a couple of good belts of good black rum under his belt and an opportunity to talk about the sea and the North, Henry always blossomed out from his usual quiet modest self. His blue Scandinavian eyes would twinkle and dropping all his G's for Y's - and he always called my Yorge - he was off on a tale of the sea.

However, I was proud to share the reflected glory of his presence.

I only wish that Canadian children could be taught in more details the history of the lives of men such as Larsen. I look at some of these young people today who say they have opted out of the world in which we live, and I get a little sick at my stomach. So much has been accomplished by people of all races in this country. There is still so much to do and we need men who hear a different drummer and who follow him to their destiny - more men like my friend, Henry Larsen.

Stuffed turkey should not stay in refrigerator

Do not stuff a turkey then refrigerate it and roast the next day, advises the Poultry Products Institute of Canada.

It takes too long for the dressing to cool down to the point where any spoilage organisms present become inactive; and when placed in the oven later it takes too long for the dressing to heat to the point where sterilization takes place.

NORDSTJERNAN NEWS

By Phyllis Tapio

The October meeting saw the initiation of two new members: Sherry and Dale Havanka.

Reino and Helen Havanka recently enjoyed a holiday in B.C. They stopped at various points and visited with many old friends and neighbors.

Congratulations go out to Elsie and Ernie Ecklund who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on Oct. 26. Open house was held at their home on Oct. 30. Many friends, neighbors and relatives dropped in throughout the afternoon to wish the couple well.

Shirley and Lawrence Doal of Thorsby (nee Shirley Ecklund) are the proud parents of a baby boy. Proud grandparents are Elsie and Ernie Ecklund.

The November meeting was held Nov. 6 at the home of Henry Sjo-

How To Hang Tree Lights

Any Christmas tree is prettier and safer if it is properly lighted. Probably the most common way to hang lights is to put them up randomly, in no particular pattern. This can produce a gay, informal decoration. But if a tree is poorly shaped, or if you want to create a formal mood to match other decorations, arrange tree lights in a tepee pattern. That is, hang several strings of lights vertically so that each string is clipped or taped at the top of the tree and runs straight down to the bottom. To keep lines straight, anchor each string of lights to a circular cardboard or wooden frame at the base of the tree. For a semiformal feeling, arrange lights in a diagonal spiral around the tree. For a still more informal mood, hang lights in a wavy pattern.

A tree that seems skimpily decorated may simply need more lights. Just how many lights a tree should have depends on its size and its location in a room. For example, one manufacturer of tree lights suggests that a tree six feet tall and four feet wide should have about 35 lights if it is placed in a corner or against a wall, and about 75 lights if it is in the middle of a room.

A problem with tree lights in past years was that all the lights on a string went out if only one bulb was faulty. Now, though, most string sets are designed to avoid this difficulty. If one or more lights on a string fails, the others remain on. Check lights for this feature before you buy. Too, you may want to shop for new bulb designs now available. Delightful miniature and twinkling lights come in bright colors. A recent design is the snowball light, a round bulb coated with colored frosting. Unlighted, snowball bulbs make attractive tree ornaments; lighted, they glow in soft pastels.

Before you hang tree lights, inspect string sets for frayed cords, exposed wires or broken sockets. Buy only light strings tagged with a UL (Underwriters' Laboratories) label. Use insulated staples - not nails, tacks or brads - to hold light strings in place. Finally, says the National Safety Council, do not put lights on metallic Christmas trees. Defective wiring may dangerously electrify the whole tree.

Christmas in Sweden

Christmas giving in one Scandinavian country is "for the birds." In Sweden, the people tie bundles of grain to long poles and place them near their homes, and suet is fastened to the branches of trees. There's a belief in Sweden that if the birds come to eat the food, the crops that year will be abundant.

GIFT WRAPPING
Another popular gift-giving custom in Sweden treats the exchanging of presents as a joke. Emphasis is placed on the way a gift is wrapped rather than on its contents. The idea is to make the wrapping elaborate and the gift as difficult as possible to find.

gren. Following the meeting a wine and cheese party was held. Thanks to George, Henry and Monica Sjogren for doing such a fine job of hosting the event.

We are glad to hear that Mrs. Elvira Anderson is home from Camrose Hospital following a lengthy stay.

Tillie Sjoberg is home from a stay in Wetaskiwin Hospital where she had an operation on her foot.

John and Annie Holmlund recently visited with their daughter and son-in-law, Doris and Clyde Krause, in Calgary.

Carl Hanson has left for Toronto

where he is entering his purebred Percheron Colt in the Royal Winter Fair. Best of luck, Carl.

Swedish language lessons will begin again as soon as the text books arrive from Sweden. All those interested in learning are asked to contact John Holmlund.

Preparations are well underway for the Lutfisk and Meatball Supper. This will be held Dec. 4 at the Moose Hall in Wetaskiwin from 4 - 8 p.m. The prices are: Adults \$2.00, children \$1.00.

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SOLGLYT SPOTLIGHT



By Monica Peterson

COMING EVENT

Saturday, Dec. 4 — 7:30 p.m.

Sons of Norway will hold their annual Christmas Bingo and election of officers at the Scandinavian Centre on Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m. All members are urged to attend!

WHIST PARTY

Fifty members of Sons of Norway turned out to enjoy an evening of whist held at the Scandinavian Centre on Sat., Nov. 6. After several hands of whist the winners were:

Selma Olsenberg, Irene Hovde, Peter Munsen, Marg Olsenberg, Ed Veis and Orla Tychsen.

Special thanks to hosts and hostesses Leiv and Marianne Aasgaard and John and Tove Marko.

Mrs. Molly Cooper had the misfortune to be involved in a car accident recently. She is in the Royal Alexandra Hospital and would appreciate visitors.

Mrs. Elsie Dreichel is home again recovering following surgery.

Congratulations to the newlyweds, Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Hale.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Sorenson motored to Dawson Creek on business recently. En route they stopped in for coffee and a visit with Mrs. Irene Sorgaard of La Glace, Alta.

Mr. and Mrs. Karsten Stangeland announced the safe arrival of a son on Oct. 23.

Solglyt Spotlight

Don't forget the Bazaar and Bake Sale on Dec. 4. All donations will be gratefully received.

* * *

The correspondent for the January paper will be Mrs. June Doken assisted by Diane and Ward. Phone 469-0581.

Beautiful Switzerland

By Gary Johnson

You are probably wondering why I am in Switzerland after planning to stay a year in Germany. Well, apparently, Canada does not have an employment agreement with Germany and therefore Canadians must obtain a work permit before leaving Canada or else apply for one at a German Consulate outside of Germany.

The permit I had allowed me to stay three months in Germany and this was just expiring so I packed my bags, obtained a reference letter from my employer, and then set out hitch-hiking for the German Consulate in Switzerland.

It was difficult to say "goodbye" to the friends I had made and also to the German language.

It was a cold day when I reached the highway leaving Munich and, with a lot of reservations, I held up my little sign saying "Zurich", and I was off on a new experience. Four hours and two rides took me to the edge of Germany and at dusk I stopped at Lindau and took

a train from there to Zurich.

I spent a day and a half at Zurich and I found it very warm and inviting. More people speak English there while the German-Swiss that they speak has an Italian ring to it. The city has a new and old section with very narrow streets — many not wide enough for cars.

The German Consulate took my visa application and informed me that it would be 5 or 6 weeks before I would obtain my working visa for Germany.

I then set out for the French part of Switzerland — destination: a small ski resort village high in the mountains — Leysin. Leysin is the home of Club Vagabond, a world famous inn for young travellers from Canada, U.S.A. and Europe.

The village is spread out about a mile on the side of a mountain and you are always walking up or down. The train that brings you here from the village far below, climbs at a very steep angle and runs on special tracks with steel teeth to keep from running away. The train literally climbs right up the side of the mountain!

The view is one of the most wonderful things I have ever experienced. You can see the village miles below and can look across at mountain tops.

I am about a week late in arriving to find a job because this is a famous ski area and there are loads of Americans and Canadians here for the winter to work and ski.

I hope that the next time you hear from me, however, I am still here in this very beautiful isolated area of Switzerland.

Leif Erickson Fest Gala Affair

By Monica Peterson

The Leif Erickson Fest, hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Knut Svidal and Mr. and Mrs. Sig Sorenson on Oct. 23, was attended by 301 members and friends of Sons of Norway.

On hand to greet guests were Miss Laurel Hafso, Sons of Norway Queen and Mr. Uddo Johannsson, representing "Leif Erickson" in his Viking costume.

The Viking room of the Scandinavian Centre was beautifully decorated with Viking ships overflowing with grapes. The authentic Leif Erickson smorgasbord was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The Wine

Cellar, offering 20 varieties of wine, proved to be a popular spot during the evening.

Mr. Bill Halldorson, accompanied by Mr. Del Melsness, sang "A tribute To Leif Erickson" — the words being composed by Mrs. Selma Sorenson. Following the program Mr. and Mrs. Norman Nilsen led the Leif Erickson Grand March.

Mr. Harvey Haugen, dance M.C. for the evening, kept the dance lively with dances such as the "Green Grape Gallop" and the "Codfish Twist", etc., etc.

Mrs. Gladys Clark, on behalf of Sons of Norway, wishes to thank all who helped make the Leif Erickson Fest a success.

GOD REST YOU MERRY . . .

Can we stop the Christmas carol — stop it just for a moment with our mouths partly open, ready to sing the next word but not singing it? And the pressing crowds in the stores, the snarl and clutter of traffic, the shouts of newsboys, the throb of giant presses — let's stop them, too. There.

Now, with a song hanging in the silence, let us grasp the moment. If ever there are moments to be savored, Christmas has them. Why, indeed, do we bustle so frantically at Christmastime, or any other time? What moves us? Why are we cynical, hopeful? What thrills us? Why do we love? Why do we pray?

What, truly, does Christmas mean? Can we say honestly, not from rote, without guile, without pretense, but from the depths of our being? And how can we say it? . . .

Perhaps those of us who are neither saints nor poets cannot realize any moment of life to its fullest or tell what Christmas truly means, but we can, if we pause for a moment, say some of its meanings to ourselves.

We can say love — love in its widest sense, love that is the touch of young lips together and love that grows, love that is of human bondage and part courage to bear the burdens of love. . . . Love has many faces but all are kind, from that of the Madonna to the love behind a smile for a friend or a smile of thanks or welcome to a stranger. A mother's love is largely working love, as is a father's and their love for each other. All love is a part of what Christmas means.

And we can say quiet — yes, just quiet. Let our Christmas mean some quietude, . . . quiet in the sense of the absence of sound as well as in tranquility of mind, for we know communication is impossible among those who talk all the time. Christmas is a time for moments of silence, like this one, for how else can we speak to our God and hear Him?

Christmas also means simplicity of worship and of hospitality and of gifts. Simple things, like love, are unencumbered by pretense. Children often put aside the complex, costly toys and spend hours happily playing with the boxes they came in. St. Luke's account of Christ's birth is an unexcelled model of simplicity — so simple in fact, and in the telling, but so divinely magnificent in meaning: "And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

May such plain sweet words and their meaning never be lost, in literature or life. May we remember especially on Christmas Day that expensive gifts and all the gaudy blaze of the Christmas celebration have no meaning except as tokens of love. . . .

Listen, as you name what Christmas means to you in this moment before the caroling continues. In the silence, do you feel what Christmas means? Do you hear the joy of Christmas? For Christmas is, above all, the joy, the joy of a heart open to the bounties of earth — good friends, good food, warm baths, spring rain, children's eyes, sun, snow, and starry skies — and the blessings of heaven. This is the joy of joy shared in a common pool

Christmas Enchantment

by SARA BOWSER

Christmas is supposed to taste wonderful, smell wonderful and look wonderful, but many of us give up pretty easily when it comes to decorating the house. Scared by the professional looking decorations suggested in some magazines, we settle for a department store wreath on the door.

There are decorating jobs we must do at Christmas: wrapping presents, displaying cards, setting tables. Each of them is an opportunity to be creative, so why not turn your imagination loose and have fun. Simplicity, uniqueness, color: make these your goals. To help you reach them, we offer the following decorating notions.

° Let your young Michelangelos do a Christmas mural on giant sized paper in the hall.

° For a children's party, bake cookies with holes in them. Hang from ribbons over party table.

° Remember ropes of popcorn and cranberries for the tree? Paper chains? Candy canes? Popcorn balls in red cellophane? Gingerbread men?

° Add many tiny ribbon bows to plain evergreens.

° Cardboard tubes from foil make bodies for angels, soldiers, kings. Ornament with paper, ribbons, seals. For decorations or to package small gifts.

° Classic simplicity: a big white bowl of apples, pine cones sprayed gold, tiny green tree balls.

° Save roll-top bags for presents. Put faces on them for children's gifts (cotton for beards, yarns for hair, stars for eyes, etc.).

° Decorate a tiny symmetrical table tree with buttons, shiny-wrapped bunches of hard candy, bows. No lights.

° Xmas tree balls make heads. Leave them bare for stylized figures, ornament with cotton beards, star eyes for realists.

° Where's the mistletoe? Hang it in a traditional kissing ball or tie with tiny bows, glitter a leaf.

° Use gold doilies as sunbursts on a big mirror. Spray lacy straw place mats, circular ones, with gold; use them the same way on walls.

° Make a ribbon tree on a wall.

° Use the seasonal goodies you mean to serve guests as a decorating focal point; what more enthralling scene than massed liqueurs and bonbons?

° Make a Christmas tapestry out of felt. Draw stylized shapes with ruler (crowns, stars, angels, birds). Cut, glue. Roll top around rod or dowel to hang.

° A big glass jar filled with ornaments is as simple and shining as you can get.

° Wrap the children's presents in coloured comics; tie with yarn.

On Books & Articles

Norway in the United Nations, by Bjorn Jensen, Third edition, 1971. A booklet (in English) presenting Norway's general views on some of the problems confronting the United Nations and containing quotations from statements made by Norwegian Representatives at the UN. Illustrated. 35 pages. (Published by the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Press Department).

How to Trace your Ancestors in Norway. This is the third edition of a pamphlet which has been helpful to a great number of persons in finding their Norwegian ancestors or in finding relatives still living. It gives suggestions for preparations and lists the various sources of information. Statistical table on population by county and graph depicting emigration to overseas countries are new features in this edition of the pamphlet. (Published in English by the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Department of Cultural Relations, Oslo).

and thereby many times increased. Let us feel it first, then sing out and hear the words we sing:

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay.

Remember Christ our Savior
Was born on Christmas Day

To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray.

O Tidings of comfort, and joy!

Iris Rosen is pleased to announce the opening of her new office with associates **Ejgil (Ike) Bryldt** and **Marsha Ulmer** in Room 314, 11745 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, and look forward to attending to your travel arrangements.

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Iceland Important To NATO

NATO is enormously dependent on maritime links between its transatlantic partners. These links are now acutely threatened with the possibility that the principal seaports might be cut or outflanked.

Because of virtually simultaneous political developments in Iceland and Malta, the alliance suddenly risks seeing the entrances to the North Atlantic and the West Mediterranean become unstoppered.

There is no connection between the two events other than hap-hazard timing. Last June narrow election victories in each island republic brought to power political groups wishing to revise defence agreements with NATO. This opens the way to changes in the existing world power balance that could, if accomplished, have a profound strategic effect.

Malta and Iceland have nothing in common save that they are island minstates closely associated with the English-speaking world and are located at the bottlenecks of vital naval passages.

Malta, tiny in size but with twice Iceland's population, was once a British colony. Iceland, garrisoned by American troops in July, 1941, even before the United States was a belligerent, has been officially protected by U.S. forces since 1951. To stave off German seizure of either island in the Second World War, Britain fought desperate battles at Malta and occupied Iceland.

BLOCK PASSAGE

From a NATO viewpoint, Malta's function is to block the narrow westward sea passage between Europe and Africa. The new Mintoff government has demanded a huge price rise for allowing Britain and NATO to continue harbor and airport facilities.

The NATO council is studying means of achieving the same result by substitute installations, perhaps in Cyprus, Sicily and Gibraltar. It has been implied that, while inconvenient, the task could be accomplished; the only requisite is to insure that Maltese dockyards abandoned by Britain are not made available to the Soviet fleet.

The Iceland problem is different American and commanded by one and of far greater importance. This country is a charter member of NATO although, for the alliance's first two years, it contributed no facilities and no American or other troops were stationed here. Iceland, itself, has no armed forces. After the Korean War heightened fear of Russia, a defence pact was signed with Washington in ac-

DENMARK

Some famous Danes you ought to know
By Vera Nielsen

Christian IV (1577-1648) King of Denmark

Succeeded to the throne upon the death of his father (Frederik II) at only 11 years of age, with the provision, however, that the

cordance with NATO desires.

This pact created two euphemistic commands, the Keflavik NATO Base and the Iceland Defence Force. Both are entirely American admirals. They are crucial to Atlantic strategy because they warn of and protect against intrusion into the northeast ocean passage by Soviet ships or aircraft from Murmansk.

At a Comintern meeting in 1920 Lenin declared that Iceland would have a strategic role to play in future conflicts, particularly as regards air and submarine warfare. Subsequent scientific and weapons developments, if anything, give emphasis to the brilliance of Lenin's perception.

American planes loaded with electronic equipment, American radar screens and highly classified devices on land and aboard ships constantly check Soviet air and sea movements and are in a position to give early warning of any missile threat. The 57th United States Fighter Interceptor Squadron here is on a 24-hour "alert posture."

SEEK NEUTRALITY

Yet many Icelanders are uncomfortable about this activity. They share the traditional hankering for neutrality of Scandinavian peoples (a hankering that only Sweden can today materially afford to express). Their new leftward-leaning coalition government would really prefer to stay in NATO, protected by the U.S., while expelling American forces, thus pretending to be both Allied and neutral at once.

This is manifestly impossible as the two Scandinavian members of NATO, Norway and Denmark, are already pointing out to their island cousins. Apart from Iceland's role as a magic eye focused on the U.S.S.R., Oslo relies upon it as an immediate base for the transshipment of reinforcements and supplies should the Norwegians be attacked by Russia.

Moreover, Norway and Denmark don't want to be summoned to help plug the Northwest Passage if the Keflavik base is closed. Both have already established the principle Iceland seeks: no foreign bases on their territory during peacetime.

New York Times
By C. L. Sulzberger

Council of the Realm should temporarily govern the country while Christian was educated by the pedagogue, Hans Mikkelsen, who, as it proved, was very successful in developing the future king's powers of observation and practical sense.

At the age of 19 he took over the government himself, and whereas his foreign policy, leading to enmity and wars with Sweden and Danish participation in the 30-Years-War was, to say the least, not very fortunate, his internal rule revealed energetic and extensive activities — the founding of towns, building of palaces and other great edifices, such as Rosenborg, the Round Tower and the Stock-Exchange of Copenhagen, his efforts for the reorganization of the judiciary, and the commerce of the country, by the formation of trading companies, and for the promotion of agriculture and handicraft — are almost unique.

Christian IV was a peculiar mixture of goodnaturedness and brutality; his recreations were in the manner of his time — hunting, drinking-parties and women. Countless testimonies, however, go to prove that he constantly busied himself with the management of the affairs of the State and that he was possessed of an enormous capacity for work.

He is buried in the Cathedral of Roskilde.

News from the Danish Church

By Pastor O. Filtenborg

More than ever before on Fri., Nov. 12 the church basement was filled to the last place. There had never before been so many people (135) come to The Ladies' Aid Fall Bazaar, and the auction with C. Christophersen and Tom Nielsen as auctioneers went rapidly. The income was \$762 which is more than \$100 more than this bazaar has given before. Thanks to all who donated to the bazaar, to all who bought (for example, a rye-bread for \$2.00) and to the ladies who arranged this evening.

Services at Christmas: Again this year there will be two Danish services Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 one at 2:30 and one at 4 p.m. Christmas morning there will be an English service at 11 a.m.

The children from the Sunday-school will sing in the church at the Danish service Dec. 19. They will sing Danish and English Christmas carols, clad as angels and the people in the Christmas story. Let us celebrate Christmas also in the Church.

Christmas party: On Tues. Dec. 28 there will again this year be arranged a family Christmas-tree-party at 6:30 p.m. at Eastwood Community Hall, same place as last year, 11803-86 St. All are welcome, not only families but also single persons.

DANIA DOINGS



By Vera Nielsen

Wednesday, Dec. 15 —
"DANIA'S" ANNUAL
TURKEY BINGO

Come and bring your friends, too. They are all welcome — the more the merrier. You may be the lucky one to bring home your turkey, goose or even a duck for your Christmas Dinner. Be sure to attend, mark your calendar now for this important event. Maybe you say you don't care to play Bingo, but just think, if you could win, the effort will be paid in full.

There will be NO Whistdrive in December, but remember the next date, Jan. 18 for Whist.

"BIKUBEN" will hold their annual Christmas Party on Dec. 20. Hope all the ladies will show up so we can have a good time together. The ladies are to bring a little gift and some of your goodies for us to taste. The meeting will

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Looking forward to see you all. If you like, just bring a friend, but let her bring a little gift, too, so nobody gets cheated out.

"DANIA" held their annual general meeting on Oct. 27. The new elected Directors are as follows: President, Claus Jacobsen; Vice President, Thomas Nielsen; Treasurer, Per Nielsen; Secretary, Vera Nielsen; Members at large, Frovin Sorensen, Borge Hansen and Birthe Nielsen; Substitutes, Jens Woller and Tage Aaquist; Auditors, Thorvald Nielsen and Erik Pedersen.

Keep this date in mind — Annual New Years Dance — Jan. 8.

Tickets will be on sale after Christmas.

Congratulation to Mr. and Mrs. Poul and Ella Love on their 25th wedding Anniversary on Dec. 7. - 141 St., Edmonton 41, Alta.

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(Continued from Page 7)

stock, living habits and so forth is impressed upon us.

Finally one might conceivably opt to use the word "German" rather than Northman and risk the confusion which might occur between culture and language. My own opinion is that German just won't do any more if ever it would. The jostling for power in Europe during the last fifty years has given the word "German" a kind of odium, even among those speaking one of the Germanic languages. Those originating in Europe are usually very sensitive about associating themselves with the word unless they must. It is most unfortunate that the word has gotten in such bad connotations. Sixty years ago it was the reverse. The word "German" suggested the highest form of cultural attainments. But a fact is a fact; and it is a fact that in this century any form of the word "German" suggests now to many people authoritarian ideology, dehumanized procedures for solving problems involving political power, problems of conflict within society and between cultures plus ways of forcing scientific and technical progress, etc.

Mr. Alfredson — There are practical reasons then for preferring Northman to German when referring to culture?

Dr. Nelson — Exactly! It is apt to be forgotten that the modern nation of Germany has much vaguer connections to the Germanic culture and the physical types of which Professor Owen writes than have the modern Dane, Norwegian or Swede. While it may seem paradoxical at first speaking, it is nevertheless true that the Germans of ancient days are best represented by the populations in modern day Scandinavian nations and not those of the modern day German nation. Speaking as a psychologist, I would say that it is very difficult to control the unwanted associations through simple good intentions or cognitive restraints. When a single symbol is applied to two things, no matter how different they may be in fact it is quite naturally assumed that they are intrinsically the same.

Incidentally, another synonym might be "Teutonic". It is also a latin word which some consider the Romans first applied to one of the Celtic people they came into contact with, although later they applied it to a people who migrated from Jutland. Maybe the best way of summarizing the matter is to say that many people experienced personally no trouble thinking and referring to themselves as speaking a Germanic or Teutonic language, but do find it much easier to think of their cultural inheritance as ultimately Northman rather than Germanic or Teutonic. Teutonic is, I think, better avoided because of its close mental associations with the word "German".

Mr. Alfredson — If we lived in a perfect world without prejudice, how much difference would this distinction between Northman and German make?

Dr. Nelson — This can be judged from a quotation from Block's book "Feudal Europe". Block uses the word "German" and "Germanic" in four distinctive ways. Here is a quotation from his book:

"From the time of Charlemagne all the population of Germanic speech living to the south of Jutland being thenceforth Christians and incorporated in the Frankish kingdoms came under the influence of western civilization. But farther to the north lived other Germans who had preserved their independence on their own traditions. Their speech differing among themselves but differing much from the idioms of Germany properly so called, belong to another of the branches that sprang originally from the common linguistic stock. We call this today the Scandinavian branch. The contrast between their culture and that of the more southerly neighbours had been clearly marked after the great migrations which, in the second and third century of our era, had almost depopulated the German lands along the Baltic and about the mouth of the Elbe and thus removed many intermediate and transitional elements."

Dr. Block is a fine scholar and

no doubt can keep all these meanings clear without any trouble at all. Nevertheless, the ordinary reader might be forgiven if he is confused by it all. Lets see how substituting "Northman" for "German" where it seems appropriate aids clarity.

"From the time of Charlemagne all the population of Germanic speech living to the south of Jutland being thenceforth Christians and incorporated in the Frankish kingdoms came under the influence of Western civilization. But further to the North lived other Northmen who had preserved their independence and their traditions. Their speech, differing among themselves but differing much more from the idioms of other German speech, belong to another of the branches that sprang originally from the common linguistic stock. We call this today the Scandinavian branch. The contrast between their culture and that of the more southerly neighbours had been clearly marked after the great migrations, which, in the second and third century of that era, had almost depopulated the Northmen lands along the Baltic and about the mouth of the Elbe and thus removed many intermediate and transitional elements."

Mr. Alfredson — But surely we should not be led by this to think that the words "German" and "Germanic" should be entirely avoided in the same context!

Dr. Nelson — Oh, no. Remember again that our purpose is to clarify the North mentality for ourselves, not to make rules for historians and linguists. They apply definitional restraints in order that words may do them service. However, by habit most scholars deal only with highly specialized problems and are not interested in providing what we are seeking, namely the broad outlines of cultural transformation. They do not attempt and, indeed, find no need to attempt to answer the question when a "German" is not a "German".

It even sounds like a funny question, put that way.

I would say that for our part, when the original Northman culture had absorbed enough of the latin cultures to be acceptable to those conquered cultures, they merit the name derived from latin and that name is "German". I would hope this simple rule would help to straighten out possible confusions.

Of course, one might ask here how do we know when they reach the criterion of acceptability to the southern cultures? There is no simple rule, I am sure. But such things as Christianization would be one. By the time Theodoric is a claimed ruler by the Roman Senate in the 6th century, the Ostrogoths may be very properly called German rather than Northmen. They were Christian but not yet latins. This distinction may become clear from the following quote taken from the Van Der Meer and Lemmens book titled *Shorter Atlas of Western Civilization*, pg. 73.

"The Visigoths, or Western Goths, founded a kingdom in Spain. The Sueves occupied Galicia and Lusitania (Portugal). The Vandals stormed through Gallia, Hispania and the Africa of the dying Augustine (430) and established a dictatorship in Carthage. The Ostrogoths occupied Italy. All these were Arians. They differed from the Romans not only in race, but also in their religion. In Ravenna, where Theodoric ruled until 529, one can still see two baptistries of that period: that of the Orthodox community, and that of the Arian Gothic minority. The Longobards who, in 568, were the last to invade Italy, behaved like savages and made any comparison between invaders and victims impossible; even the gentle Gregory the Great called them 'nefandissimi Longobardi' — the 'abominable Lombards'. Nevertheless, their duchies have become purely Italian regions, and these same Longobards, who were by no means ungifted — as their historian, Paulus Diaconus, tells us — are today good Europeans, living on either side of their ancient capitals, Ticinum (Pavia) and Monza."

Mr. Alfredson — So, we are right then in believing that the Northmen culture comes to an end in

the South before the Viking period, also representing Northmen culture, even starts in the Scandinavian area? If so, was the movement of cultural extinction from south to north in this case? And how about the Spanish peninsula and the Balkan area and North Africa? Surely there were neither Northmen or Germans there at that present time?

Dr. Nelson — The reduction of Northmen religion, literature, political, legal and social systems and traditions to secondary status occurred first in the south. It occurred first in Africa, the Balkans and the Spanish peninsula. The reason is that the conquerors were very few in numbers as compared with the original inhabitants. For example, the Vandals who finally conquered North Africa are estimated at only 80,000 people in total, i.e. men, women and children.

The case of the Vandals, I think, is particularly interesting. This Northman tribe begins its journey in Jutland. They then move to the East as far as the Vistula River then turn south through what is modern day Germany, France and Spain overwhelming Roman legions en route. Eventually they crossed the Straits of Gibraltar by laying waste the great city of Carthage and wresting control of the western Mediterranean Sea from the Roman navy and merchant fleet.

Finally, after starving off the grain supply of Italy from North Africa, the Vandal people turn north once again. This time they cross the sea to capture and ransack Rome itself in the year 455. Still, today we rarely consider North Africa as being even remotely connected to Northern Europe, and most people only know the word "Vandals" as a word of condemnation. Thus it seems you are right in suggesting that the culture progressively strengthens as it moves toward northern Europe.

Mr. Alfredson — Let's get back to home base. How does this account of Northmen culture square with that given in the Saga literature, particularly the first chapter of the *Heimskringla*? According to the *Heimskringla* the original people were Aesir and Vanir who inhabited eastern regions probably what is now the Soviet Union, and then migrated west to Scandinavia.

Dr. Nelson — It might seem at first glance that Professor Owen's account is contrary to Snorre in the *Heimskringla*. The *Heimskringla* does, of course, place the ancestral home east. Still the accounts need not conflict. First, Snorre may tell of the migration of only one segment of a much larger Northmen group. This is a very important group since it provided the Yngling kings through whom later kings of Scandinavia were to trace their family back to the god, "Odin"! However, it seems most likely that the *Heimskringla* gives account of only a single event occurring long after the first movement of Northmen east. It is also likely that the account in the *Heimskringla* may refer to a migration dating early in the age of migration itself, perhaps around 1,000 A.D. We must keep in mind we have been discussing events occurring over thousands of years, not decades!

Scandinavians Generous

While being contacted by the local branch of the Unitarian Service Committee it was learned that many Scandinavian names have been showing up with donations to the Committee. The local representative could only attribute it to the fact that we have given announcements in The Scandinavian Centre News.

The Unitarian Service Committee is a voluntary group which helps underprivileged people throughout the world. Their headquarters is at 56 Sparks St., Ottawa.

An old Danish custom demands that no visitor to your home during the Christmas season may be allowed to leave without having tasted your Christmas cookies (Kleiner) — otherwise, you run the risk of the visitor "carrying the Christmas spirit away."